

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

December 18, 2012

Amendment to Item #3

We concur with the need to compile, report and analyze child welfare data consistently.

Fortunately, the Child Welfare System Improvement and Accountability Act (AB 636, Steinberg) of 2001, already provides a legal framework for measuring and monitoring each County’s performance in ensuring safety, permanence and well-being of children. Los Angeles County has been tracking and evaluating child welfare outcomes using the 14 key indicators as required by AB 636 since 2004—indicators which have been vetted at the local, State and federal levels.

As part of AB 636, “Lead Agencies” for each County receive data on the 14 indicators on a quarterly basis and are required to: (1) conduct a self-assessment to analyze the data and examine program areas to determine the basis for the current level of performance, (2) collaborate with local partners and develop a System Improvement, and (3) submit an annual Board-approved report to CDSS. According to page 11 of CDSS’ rules, the Lead Agencies for conducting these efforts are “the County Child Welfare Agency and the County Probation Department.”

MOTION

MOLINA _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

Similarly, as a result of Supervisors Michael Antonovich and Mark Ridley-Thomas' motion of October 11, 2011, DCFS and its partner agencies provide comprehensive quarterly reports focusing on child fatalities. These partner agencies include the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), which for the last 26 years has provided data to help better serve the needs of children and families in our County. ICAN's annual "State of Child Abuse in Los Angeles County" provides comprehensive data and analysis of the multi-agency, multi-disciplinary efforts that support the welfare of children.

Still, there is room for increased inter-departmental coordination on child welfare data.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the departments involved in this report-back be expanded to include the Probation Department, as one of the Lead Agencies for AB 636, as well as other departments critical to child well-being, including the Departments of Mental Health, Sheriff and ICAN.

I FURTHER MOVE that existing efforts to monitor and evaluate child welfare outcomes and fatality reports be considered and not duplicated in the implementation of this motion.

GC S:\Motions\DCFS child welfare data_amendment